

## VILLA RUSHES MEN TO TAKE ZACATECAS

Capture of Mexico City with Least Possible Delay Now His Aim.

## REVOLUTION NEAR END, SAY REBELS

Zapata Joins Constitutionalists and Is Expected to Help in Reducing the Capital.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]  
Torreón, Mexico, May 24.—General Villa began to-day the second stage of the rebel invasion of strictly Federal territory, when he sent a force of 2,000 men with a railway repair train to Zacatecas.

The Federal evacuation of Saltillo makes it possible now for Villa to devote his entire force to the campaign around Zacatecas, from which point he expects to proceed rapidly into the southern country.

Villa has withdrawn practically his entire army from the Saltillo country for this Zacatecas campaign, and to-day seventeen trains are being loaded here with men, supplies and equipment for a general movement which has for its purpose the taking of Mexico City with the least possible delay.

Emiliano Zapata, whose operations around Mexico City have filled the Federals with fear, is acting now under orders of Generals Carranza and Villa, and is expected to assist materially in the Mexico City attack by capturing the suburban towns before Villa's army arrives. Advice was received here to-day saying that Zapata has occupied Cuernavaca, which is a short distance from the capital and commands an entry into the city proper.

Zacatecas is 247 miles from Torreón, and the railroad being in bad condition, it is not probable that General Villa's army can reach there for several days. In the mean time General Natera is besieging the city with 4,000 men, and it is believed he can prevent the 4,000 Federals in Zacatecas from escaping before Villa arrives. Villa expects to proceed from Zacatecas at once to San Luis Potosí and thence direct to an attack upon Mexico City.

Rebels believe the revolution practically at an end. They think the Federals will evacuate every city now held by them as quickly as rebel troops approach, and that it is only a question of days until Huerta's entire armed force will be concentrated in and around Mexico City and ready to surrender.

Villa expects a battle at Aguas Calientes, near which city his forces must go on their way to San Luis Potosí.

A free hand and a private car have been given by General Villa to George C. Carothers, special representative of the State Department, who is accompanying Villa's army on its southern campaign. The car was placed to-day at the disposal of Mr. Carothers, and orders were given by Villa for it to be moved when and where Mr. Carothers orders. It is a National Railway car, formerly used by the superintendent of the Torreón division, and is fitted up with stateroom, office, buffet and kitchen. Two Chinese cooks were given with it.

## MEDIATORS GET WILSON'S VIEWS

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order to shoot Gustavo Madero, brother of the late President.

Mr. Requerra said this evening that he had come to Niagara Falls "to take advantage of the situation" and to talk with some real Mexicans. He said he did not know whether he would see the mediators, but he would talk with the duly accredited Mexican delegates, who were his friends. Later in the evening Mr. Requerra met Mr. Elguero, secretary of the Mexican delegation, and retired for a conference with him.

Mr. Ocon would not discuss his mission to Niagara Falls, but he denounced Villa in emphatic terms, saying that if the rebel general took Mexico City no woman would be safe there; that he would plunder every one who possessed anything, and then try to escape to Europe, where, Mr. Ocon declared, Villa already had over \$5,000,000 deposited in his credit.

A report reached here regarding the alleged plans of the Constitutionalists to land troops at Punta Gorda, in the vicinity of Vera Cruz, and the Mexican delegates have suggested that this step, if carried out, may render necessary some movement of the Federal troops near Vera Cruz, but have given notice that any such movement, made necessary by the action of the Constitutionalists, must not be regarded as in any sense a violation of the armistice between Mexico and the United States.

## Solemn Mass for Peace.

The chief event to-day was a solemn high mass for the success of the peace conference in the little chapel of Our Lady of Peace.

It was attended by the Minister of Argentina and his little son, Justice Lamar, Judge Lehmann, H. Percival Dodge, the Messrs. Elguero, one a mediator and the other his brother and secretary to the delegation; Mr. Rodriguez, the daughters and sons of Mr. Rabasa, Mr. Algaro, numerous others of the Mexican suite and a large number of newspaper correspondents. The Rev. Thomas O'Neil, the rector, was celebrant. The sermon on the Assumption, which feast was celebrated on Thursday, ended with a declaration that without God no nation could prosper and that without religion there would inevitably be a lack of respect for constituted authority, and war, rapine and therefore anarchy would ensue. The God-fearing man, said the preacher, makes the good citizen, either as an individual or the head of the family.

There was no direct reference to the Mexican situation in the sermon, although at the offertory the entire mass was offered for the successful outcome of the peace negotiations.

## Excursion to Peninsula.

Mr. Rabasa and the members of his family, Dr. Moreira, of the Brazilian Embassy, and Mr. Mee and others of the diplomatic and foreign contingent availed themselves of the invitation of Dr. Doolittle, president of the Ontario Motor League, and went on a delightful ride through the Niagara Peninsula, where the fruit trees, now in full bloom, contribute to a series of charming landscapes.

The peace negotiations themselves remained in statu quo to-day. From various sources I received assurances of the absolute accuracy of the dispatches I have sent to The Tribune, including that of this morning, but there were no developments to-day.

The Mexican delegates, who before they left Mexico made arrangements for prompt and accurate advices regarding the military developments in their country from a source they regard unquestionably as authoritative, are still convinced that Saltillo has not fallen and remains in the hands of the Federals. When I made the suggestion to one of them to-day that it was some days after the fall of Torreón before the fact was admitted in Mexico City, he replied that it was also many days before the fall of that city that the Constitutionalists were claiming that it had fallen; and, furthermore, he suggested that while there might be strategic reasons which led the government to suppress the facts, so far as the public in Mexico City was concerned, the information sent to him and his associates could be depended upon as entirely accurate.

## Mexico's Agrarian Bank.

Apropos of the agrarian question in Mexico, attention was called to-day to the fact that since 1894 Mexico had a national agrarian bank, organized for the purpose of assisting the more thrifty peasants to become owners of their own farms, and that this bank had a capital of \$60,000,000 which is loaned continuously to those who are purchasing their farms and at a rate of interest from 1 to 1½ per cent less than the prevailing commercial rate.

A great number of peasants have availed themselves of this assistance and have become landowners, although most of the operations in this direction have been checked by the present rebellion.

One of the Mexicans who inquired of one of the American delegates what had been the experience of the United States in this direction, and if it had developed a successful system of agrarian or farmers' banks, was informed that this country had never established such a system, but that its establishment was a part of President Wilson's policy, although it was unlikely that the organic legislation would be passed at this session of Congress, because of several radical differences on the subject between the President and the committee of Congress which would have to report the required bill.

## Signs of a Long Stay.

Already speculation is turning to the possible date of the conclusion of this conference. It is, of course, mere speculation, but the industry and application of mediators and delegates, both of which to a degree generally foreign to diplomatic procedure are noticeable here, have led to hopes that the end may be reached soon. It is learned, however, that both the American delegates have sent for their wives and have engaged quarters for them for two weeks, and one of the mediators who does not find his quarters in the hotel to his liking is looking for a house, so that hopes of a speedy termination have little to go upon.

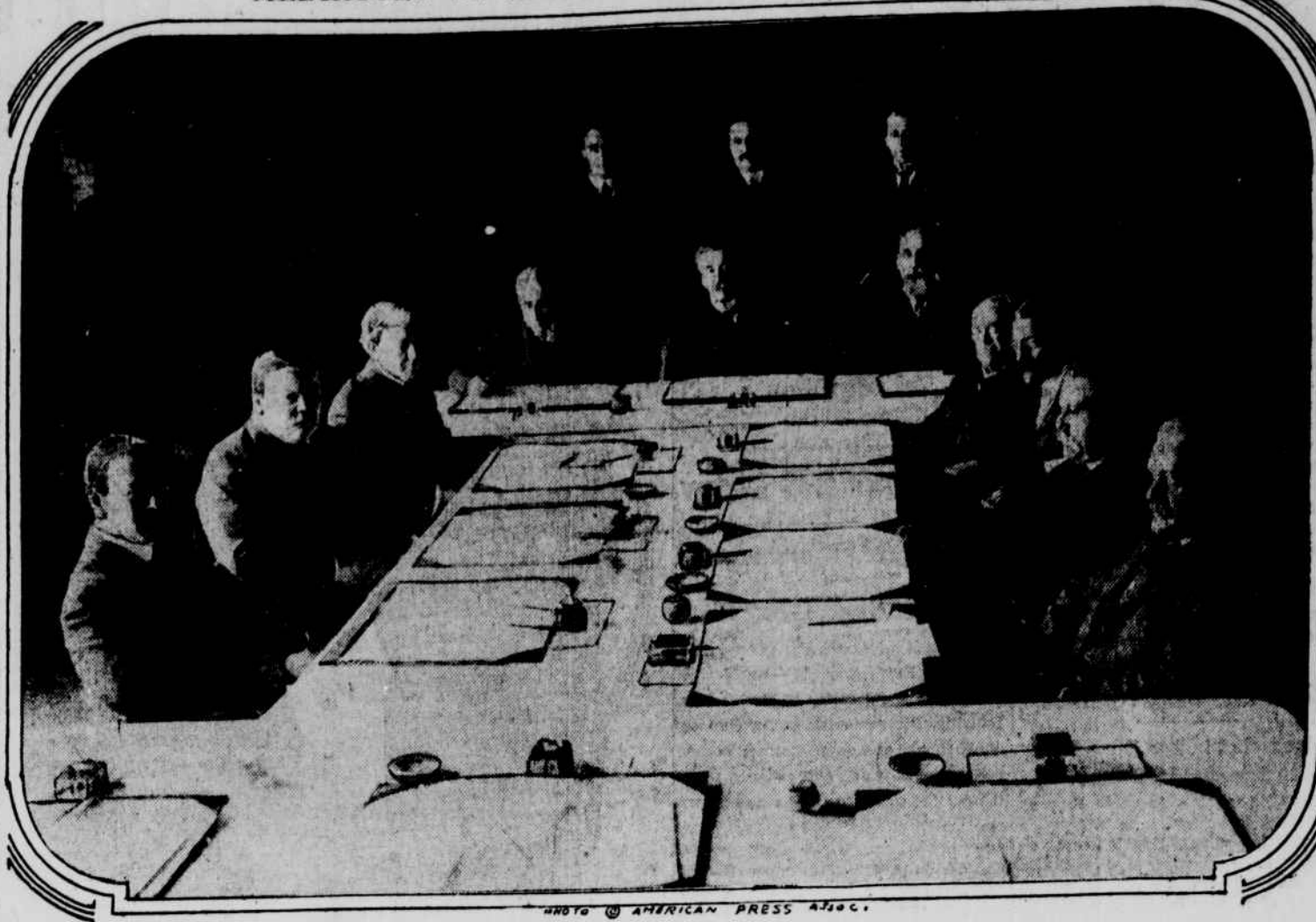
So often it is asked how this conference compares with the last great peace conference on American soil—the Russo-Japanese conference at Portsmouth in 1905—that some comparison may not be amiss. The two are as different as day and night.

At Portsmouth all was life and beauty and gaiety. Here there is beauty, scenic beauty of a majestic sort, but little of life and nothing of gaiety. To the Portsmouth conference the naval and military features lent a brilliancy that is wholly lacking here, and the summer girl, who was present in troops, added a sprightliness that is notably absent at Niagara Falls.

There the sessions of the conference were held within the confines of Portsmouth Navy Yard, while armed sentries guarded the reservation. Here the sessions are held in a hotel salariorium, with no guard other than two or three Ontario policemen and a few solemn visaged Dominion Secret Service men lurking in the darker corners of the hotel.

There bands and orchestras filled the air with music, and ever and anon the guns of the navy yard and the battle-ships boomed with the roar of military salutes, while the most polyglot aggregation which ever filled an American hotel afforded unceasing amusement to summer visitors. Here the quiet roar

## MEDIATORS IN SESSION AT NIAGARA FALLS, ONT.



Seated, left to right: H. P. Dodge (secretary), Lehmann, Lamar, United States envoys; Naon, Da Gama, Suarez, the A B C mediators; Rodriguez, Rabasa, L. Elguero, Mexican envoys, and R. Elguero, their secretary. Standing: Gil, Moreira, Salinas, secretaries to the A B C mediators.

of Niagara Falls provides the only salute, and Spanish, and occasionally Portuguese, aside from English, are the only languages heard.

There "Bertie" Pierce, in costumes which would have turned Beau Brummel green with envy, represented the Department of State. Here good, solemn faced "Bob" Rose, Bryan protégé and consistent Democrat, plays the important role.

At Portsmouth there was an air of feverish excitement. At Niagara Falls there is an atmosphere of subdued intensity.

## Too Early for Crowds.

It is too early in the season for crowds at Niagara Falls. The summer girl has not emerged from her chrysalis. It is still too cool for the summer tourist to blossom in profusion, and possibly the atmosphere of the conference may have taken on something of its solid British surroundings.

But there are deeper reasons for the solemnity which surrounds these proceedings, for it would be Americans, not Japanese or Russians, who would give up their lives for their country should the mediation fail—it would be American homes which would be bereaved each time a Mexican bullet found its mark. It would be American streets which would echo to the dirge of military bands and it would be American wives and mothers who would wear mourning should war, not peace, be the outcome.

Nineteen Americans have already given up their lives in the war which was stayed only by the good offices of the mediators, and an untold number of Americans would be added to the sad roll of honor should these earnest and altruistic diplomats fail of their high purpose.

## VERA CRUZ JOYOUS, DESPITE MEXICANS

Continued from page 1

the editor and staff on a refugee train, now circulates by means of a sailboat all over the fleet, as well as everywhere in Vera Cruz. It returns daily to the attack on the administration's course and urges that the only solution is for the American army to go to the capital.

Heavy broadsides supported by pertinent quotations from President Polk's messages show the similarity of Mexican conditions in 1847 and now. These are supplemented by a light fire in a column of paragraphs called "Chispazos." It was "The Herald" which discovered by paraphrasing Sherman that this was a hell of a war and also that trade follows the flag out of the country as well as into it. Among the characteristic paragraphs this morning were the following:

"About the only thing left to be decided is that if American honor for too Tampico flag incident has been vindicated by the pacific seizure of a custom house on the Atlantic we can proceed to kick ourselves out of Vera Cruz."

"With the only Mexican representatives in the mediation conference delegates from President Huerta, who is not recognized by Washington, and the rebels refusing to participate or associate with Huerta's representatives or concede the right of the United States to interfere in Mexico's internal affairs, it doesn't look as though the mediators really were going to find much to do but look at the Falls."

"No, major, we only tried once to tell Secretary Bryan anything about Mexico. However, we never have been allowed to forget our one attempt, for on that occasion he went to sleep during the course of our instructive discourse."

The editor of "The Herald" went to Washington last summer to try to get recognition for Huerta, so that there may be more in the last paragraph than meets the eye.

A Chicago paper which has wandered hither contains a three-column letter from a bluejacket to his family in Chicago purporting to describe his experiences during the landing. He says that the Americans went ashore with but one thought, "murder and loot," and describes with Munchausen-like vivacity the potting of every head

in sight, shooting prisoners in batches, burning bodies and so on. As a matter of fact, this particular bluejacket never left his ship.

It is to be hoped the public will be sensible enough to take such absurdities at their true value, even if editors are foolish enough to publish them.

The impressive thing to a civilian during the present trying situation is the restraint, fair-mindedness and serious desire for justice on the part of the professional fighting men of both the army and navy. You hear it in the wardrooms of the dreadnoughts and the little rolling destroyers, under the officers' tents, under the hot sunshine and all along our twelve-mile line.

It is the people who have made more money in Mexico than they could anywhere else who are the fire-eaters and talk of sweeping the Mexicans off the map. The responsible fighting men are nearly always openminded and anxious to learn, and if they are restless at the present delay it is not merely a desire to practise their profession, but because they see no way in which the Americans can retire with justice to Mexico or honor to themselves.

## HUERTA TO RENEW RAILWAY SERVICE

Line Between Vera Cruz and the Capital Soon To Be Repaired.

Vera Cruz, May 24.—Apparently convinced that the United States will adhere rigidly to the armistice agreement and is anxious to restore communication throughout Mexico as far as possible, officials of the Huerta government are preparing to replace the track along the line of the Mexican Railway torn up by General Gustavo Maas in his retreat from Vera Cruz.

The general purchasing agent of the Mexican National Railways called at Brigadier General Funston's headquarters to-day and asked if the American commander had any objection to the restoration of the line. He was assured that Americans would be glad to see the service restored and trains operated regularly between the capital and Vera Cruz. The Americans, he was told, were never able to understand why General Maas considered it necessary to tear up several miles of track.

The Mexican official was gratified with the answer, and declared that the work of replacing the track would probably be started at once.

This action follows the decision to arrange for the exchange of mail with Mexico City and interior points, beginning to-morrow. It also gives prospect of clearing up the congestion at the customs warehouses of freight destined for the interior. For the present the mail exchange will be made at Tembladores station, at the eastern end of the destroyed section of the track on the Mexican line. A box car postoffice has been improvised for the purpose.

The American officers hope to see within a week or two full trains running in and out of Vera Cruz, going through to the capital without change. The most rigid inspection of freight and baggage is being maintained here, to prevent arms and ammunition from being taken into the interior, and the Huerta officials will probably continue to search passengers and to demand passports of all foreigners on trains proceeding either way. Presumably the Mexican inspection will be made at Cordoba, if a through service is resumed.

## SIXTEEN JUDGES DO 8 MONTHS IN JAIL

Finns Cheer Them on Their Return and Are Lashed by Gendarmes' Whips.

Helsingfors, Finland, May 24.—After serving eight months' imprisonment for refusing to enforce a law conferring equal rights on Russians with Finlanders in Finland, which passed the Douma, but not the Finnish Senate, the entire High Court of Viborg, consisting of sixteen judges, returned here to-day.

An immense crowd assembled to welcome the judges, and cheered enthusiastically. Mounted gendarmes, riding on the sidewalks, used their whips on the people for "unlawful cheering." The judges were confined in the Kresty prison at St. Petersburg.

## WANT REBELS TO REACH MEXICO CITY

Some Washington Officials Therefore Indifferent to Mediation.

## WILSON SEES BRYAN OVER ENVOYS' REPORT

Vasconcelos Not Going to Canada, but to Northern Mexico in Few Days.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, May 24.—Reports that General Carranza had actually delegated three Constitutionalists to go to the mediation conference at Niagara Falls were met by denials on the part of the Constitutionalists here. José Vasconcelos, the rebel financial agent, who was said to have been selected as one of the delegates, said again to-day that there was no plan of his going to Niagara Falls, and his friends supplemented this by declaring that he would remain in Washington a few days and then return to Northern Mexico.

It was said in high official quarters to-night, however, that there was good reason to hope that the Constitutionalists, who are now so firm about not taking part in the mediation at Niagara Falls, would favorably receive any just solution which might be suggested as the result of the deliberations of the mediators and the American and Mexican delegates. Constitutionalists here continue to declare that they will neither join the conference nor abide by its judgment of what should be done to settle Mexico's troubles, but the administration hopes to get them into line.

It was also declared by the Constitutionalists here that there was nothing significant about the reported return of Villa's army to Torreón from Saltillo. It has been said that Villa was taking a large force back to Torreón to establish himself in power. The rebel agents here say the "movement" has not been reported to them, but if it has taken place they are certain that it has no more significance than the garrisoning of Torreón, which is a railway centre of importance and is without a large number of troops since Villa moved most of his army to Saltillo.

If the Constitutionalists agents here are to be believed, or if their information is full and correct, there seems to be little chance of a rebel agent being sent to Niagara Falls; and it is believed in administration circles that if the Constitutionalists refuse even to discuss the internal affairs of Mexico with the mediators and the American and Mexican delegates their attitude toward the solution of the Mexican problem itself is likely to be wholly unsatisfactory.

Mr. Bryan was said to have been working energetically in the direction of procuring Constitutional participation, but there are some officials in the administration who seem not to care whether the Constitutionalists engage in the mediation or not, but want the rebels to go to Mexico City.

A morning conference was held at the White House between the President and Secretary Bryan, and those officials thereupon abandoned consideration of the Mexican problem for the day, for after luncheon the President went automobile driving and Secretary Bryan drove with his wife and son into the country to spend the afternoon far from diplomatic activity.

The President and Mr. Bryan went over the entire situation, discussing particularly a long report from the American commissioners at Niagara Falls.

Constitutionalist headquarters here confirmed the report of the retirement of General Villa from Saltillo, but explained that it was due purely to military considerations, Torreón being a better base for the advance southward than Saltillo. The retreating Federals destroyed the railroad from Saltillo,

as they returned southward, and General Villa has transferred his base of operations to Torreón, the principal railroad centre in Northern Mexico, whence he has a railroad in operation almost to San Luis Potosí, the next point of attack. The escape of the retreating garrison from Saltillo is admitted.

Unofficial advices reaching Washington from Niagara Falls are that the mediators are making determined efforts to bring about the establishment of a junta to govern Mexico pending the holding of an election. The junta to be made up of a man chosen by Huerta, one chosen by the Constitutionalists and a third chosen by the mediators.

While representatives here of the Constitutionalists insist that they will never consent to such an arrangement the word from Niagara Falls is that the mediators have not yet lost hope of bringing about this solution.

## TO STAY, HUERTA REPEATS AGAIN DENIES AUTHORIZING ENVOYS TO OFFER HIS RESIGNATION.

Mexico City, May 24.—Provisional President Victoriano Huerta in a statement last night repeated that the Mexican delegates to the Niagara Falls conference were not authorized to offer his resignation.

## HUERTA PRAYS FOR PEACE

Member of Crowd of Worshipers in Mexico City Church.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Mexico City, May 24.—Huerta mingled this morning with a crowd of worshippers who thronged Guadalupe Basílica to pray for peace, and remained in the church some time.

War Minister Blanquet flatly denied to-night the story that an American sergeant was shot by the Mexican forces stationed at El Tejar, near Vera Cruz. He said the authors of such harmful stories deserved themselves to be shot.

## BANDIT CHIEF KILLED

Incarnacion Olguin Falls Before Federals—Wife Taken.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]

Mexico City, May 24.—The robber chieftain Incarnacion Olguin has been killed in an encounter with government forces in the State of Guanajuato, according to a telegram received by the Interior Department to-day from Governor Cuellar of that state. Olguin's wife, who was the standard bearer of her husband's force, was made a prisoner.

## MOVING ON REBELS ONLY, SAYS HUERTA

Meaning of Activity Near Vera Cruz, He Sends Word to U. S.

## 3,000 MEN LANDED BY CONSTITUTIONALISTS

Washington Relieved by Dictator's Disclaimer That He Plans Anti-American Hostilities.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, May 24.—The Spanish Ambassador, who looks after the interests of Mexico during the suspension of diplomatic relations, informed the State Department to-night that the Foreign Office in Mexico City had asked him to say that a force of thousands of Constitutionalists had landed on the coast of Vera Cruz and that the Huerta government wanted the United States to know that a movement of troops in the neighborhood of Vera Cruz was directed against the rebels and not against the American troops.

The announcement caught the administration by surprise, and there were many officers who believed that the Huerta government might be engaged in a shifting of troops which would later prove dangerous to the American forces. Agents of the Constitutionalists, however, have already heard of the landing of rebel forces on the coast of Vera Cruz. They say that General Candido Aguilar, the rebel leader who recently took Tuxtepec, sent a force of men to a point about forty miles north of Vera Cruz on the steamship Yucatan.

They do not believe, however, that Aguilar has sent a force as large as 3,000. As far as they know, the Yucatan, which is understood to be a small coastwise steamer, has made only one trip, and her capacity is estimated at not more than 400 soldiers.

Mr. Bryan made public the following statement:

"The Spanish Ambassador has communicated to the State Department a message just received from the Mexican Foreign Office to the effect that a Constitutional force of 3,000 has entered on the coast of the State of Vera Cruz, and the Foreign Office explains that the movement of Federal troops in the neighborhood is against the Constitutionalists and not against the Americans. The explanation is made by the Mexican government in order that its activities in that direction may not be misunderstood."

Mr. Bryan was not entirely sure about the information concerning the landing of the forces. Naval officials did not know of any water transportation in possession of the rebels, and at first it was believed that the Foreign Office in Mexico City might have referred only to an entry into the state from the north.

At first Mr. Bryan said that the troops had been "landed." In order to be on the safe side he later changed his announcement to read that they had "entered" the State of Vera Cruz. The Spanish Ambassador, Señor Riano, said to-night that his understanding was clear that the Constitutionalists had disembarked. He could not make out the name of the point of landing from his telegram.

He said that General García Peña, commanding the Federal forces outside of Vera Cruz, had reported the matter to the Foreign Office, and that the government in Mexico City had then sent this message to him, simply for the purpose of allaying any suspicion which might arise from the movement of the Federal forces outside of Vera Cruz.

The fact that the Constitutionalists here have information of the rebel movement is reassuring to officials, who would otherwise be aroused over any transfer of Mexican soldiers.

There is a virtual armistice on between Huerta and the United States, although it is officially called a suspension of hostilities, but the understanding between Huerta, the A B C mediators and the United States that Huerta is not obligated to refrain from movements against the rebels is clear. In consequence, he is at liberty to proceed against the rebels who have landed in Vera Cruz, but his troops will be closely watched by the American forces, which will doubtless be shifted if Huerta's soldiers threaten to obtain a strategic advantage.



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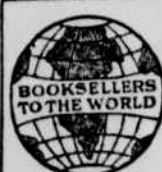
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